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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
TO THE
ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR
1954.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
ST. JUST.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1954.

The Chairman of the Council (Councillor W. T. Warren).

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. W. Holman.

Councillors: N. Barnes

J. B. Barnett

W. N. Harvey

H. G. R. Mason

J. Oats

J. C. Oats

James Rowe

W. H. Rowe

A. Warren

K. R. Woolcock

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health

W. K. DUNSCOMBE, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

W. G. S. KNEEBONE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

M.R.I.P.H. & H.



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To the Chairman and Members of
ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

In presenting the Annual Report for 1954 which unexpectedly is my last one, I must first of all thank The Council for the courtesy with which they have listened to my advice for the past nine years.

It is unfortunate that in that time more progress has not been able to be made in this district in providing the fundamentals of Public Health i.e. adequate water supplies, housing, and sewerage, and though it must be said that some at least of the difficulties have been partly of the Council's own making, there is no doubt that the various financial stringencies which we have passed through since 1947 have operated most unfavourably on a Local Authority with such a small penny rate.

None the less the Council have tried to get on in spite of the considerable difficulties and we certainly hope to see some results in the next year or two, notably in Housing. One obvious impediment to speed is the limitation in staff which immediately has financial repercussions.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Clerk for his most helpful co-operation which has been available to me at all times, and also his staff. I am especially grateful to the former Sanitary Inspector Mr. W. J. Lawry who gave of his best, while to the present Sanitary Inspector my particular thanks are due for the most excellent and conscientious assistance he has given me since he took office.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE,

Medical Officer of Health.

ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.
1954.

1.	Estimated Population..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,000
2.	Area ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,761 acres.
3.	Rateable Value ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£13,086
4.	Product of 1d. Rate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£49. 19s. 8d.
5.	No. of Inhabited Houses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,420
6.	Live Births.	28 Male,	30 Female	..	..	..	..	..	58 Total
	Rate per 1,000 Population	14.5							
7.	Still Births.	- Male,	2 Female	..	..	..	..	..	2 Total
	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	33.3							
8.	Total Deaths.	31 Male,	19 Female	..	..	..	..	..	50 Total
	Rate per 1,000 Population	12.5							
9.	Infant Deaths.	1 Male,	- Female	..	..	..	..	..	1 Total
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	17.2							
10.	Maternal Deaths.	NIL.							

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	3	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	-	1	1
- Lung, Bronchus.. .. .	1	1	2
- Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	-	1	1
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	3	1	4
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	1	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	-	1	1
Other Heart Disease	9	3	12
Other Circulatory Disease.. .. .	5	-	5
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis.. .. .	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	1	-	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	1	4	5
All other Accidents	-	1	1
	<u>31</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>50</u>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease	19.
Cancer.	5.
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	4.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory).	4.

1. VITAL STATISTICS

Though one must always make the proviso that with such small figures relatively large fluctuations are bound to occur the following observations are offered:-

- (a) The population is virtually the same in number as last year though this does not mean that its composition by age groups is identical.
- (b) The death rate is considerably lower.
- (c) Among the principal causes of death heart disease is easily the greatest, with cancer much less in proportion than last year though this is possibly only a temporary thing. Respiratory tuberculosis is still an important cause but it is earnestly to be hoped that it represents an expiring fire and that other, younger, people have not been left infected and infective to carry on the disease.

2. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

No. of houses	(1)	On mains supply..	..	..	..	692
	(2)	With standpipe supply.	..	..	..	140
	(3)	Without supply ..	...	..	..	621

(a) The wet summer meant that these kept up fairly well. No progress unfortunately was made in the chlorination of the St. Just Churchtown supply and the unsatisfactory feature of notices to boil had to be continued for yet another period.

(b) Good progress was made with the improvement at Trewellard mentioned in the last report but the work was not completed by the end of the year.

Boscaswell and Pendeen.

(c) The construction of the additional houses at Boscaswell which finally got under way meant that a method of harnessing the supply from the Leat had to be found as a matter of urgency. It is proposed to do this by a 6,000 gallon tank at Carn View Terrace, and while providing a supply to the housing estate, lay the mains provided under the Drift Scheme and so give a standpipe supply to Pendeen. This would be of particular importance to the school. Unfortunately, almost as everywhere, the legal problems involved were very great and were not even in sight of a solution by the end of the year. If something doesn't happen soon we shall be in the position of having built Council houses without any water supply

3. SEWERAGE

No progress was made with the carrying out of the Boscean Scheme, though this is now finally ready to go to the Ministry. As it stands, it is proposed to lay a main along the 375 feet contour line or thereabouts which will avoid any pumping until the Tregeseal section comes in. This will, of course, mean a material saving in running costs.

4. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Throughout the year we were fortunate in that the incidence of infectious disease remained very low. For some years now I have been able to report this but it would be tempting fate to imagine that this state of affairs is likely to continue for long. The untreated water at St. Just Churchtown gives ample opportunity for apprehension to cite just one possibility. There are others.

Tuberculosis.

The testing of children in the 13 - 14 year age group and the giving of B.C.G. to those negative and the x-ray of all positive cases continued. The efforts in case finding are slowly having their effect but a fresh point this year was the introduction of the jelly test for school entrants with special concentration on such as are found to be very strongly positive.

In such cases where no evidence is found in the child's family or close relatives, attention should be paid to the milk supply in case a Tuberculous cow is detected in the herd.

HOUSING

This remains the most difficult problem with which the Council has to deal and the lack of progress since the completion of the houses in Regent Terrace has been cumulative. Strong pressure has been put on the Council by the Ministry to give up houses now held under requisition which, in this area, are greater in proportion than almost any other district in the county, but the delays which occurred before this site at Boscaswell was started, mean that such a large proportion of the total number of new houses to be built there will be taken up by these displaced persons, that there will be less for slum clearance and the present housing list. I have mentioned before that the Urban District has a large number of unfit houses and it is all the more unfortunate, therefore, that the Council have not decided to make use of the chances offered by the 1949 Housing Act, relating to improvements. It is surely better to pay out even £800 on which there is a 50 per cent Grant than to have to buy land and build a new house for £1,800.

The question of Slum Clearance under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, is a most important one to the Council as even the most superficial survey shows a large number liable to be dealt with, even when the most generous allowance is made for low standards on account of the lack of water and sewerage.

The net result of it all is that there will be a rehousing problem in St. Just for many years ahead.

No. of houses built by Council..	..	..	..	..	Nil
No. of houses built by private enterprise.	..				1
No. of Demolition Orders ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
No. of Closing Orders.	..	..	..	..	Nil

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year ending December, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Just Urban District Council.

November, 1954.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report for 1954 on the Sanitary circumstances of the District.

During the year under review varying degrees of progress were made with relation to:-

- (1) The preparation for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of the Pendeen - Boscaswell Water Scheme.
- (2) The preparation for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of the St. Just Town - Boscean - Tregeseal Sewerage Scheme.
- (3) The installation of the Trewellard Water Supply Improvement Scheme, and
- (4) Final preparations for the construction of 44 dwellings at Lower Boscaswell.

The decontrol of slaughtering in July increased, by no small measure, the heavy burden of duties borne by the department. Much work, outside the recognised hours of duty, had to be done in order to effect one hundred per cent inspection in the three licensed Slaughterhouses.

Rodent Control work continued and the Maintenance Treatment of sewers and refuse tips was carried out.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

45 yards of new 3" water main were laid in the statutory area of supply. The renewal of service pipes continued as the need arose.

A year of abnormal rainfall guaranteed an abundant supply of water.

An electric submersible pump was installed at the Wheal Bal Shaft, Trewellard. The 6,000 gallon reservoir will be erected next year, when it is hoped that Trewellard will enjoy for the first time in its existence an uninterrupted supply of piped water.

It is still, however, a vital necessity for the whole Urban District to be served with an adequate, wholesome piped supply. We still look to the Drift Scheme to meet this most urgent need.

SEWERAGE

Sewage disposal is principally by sea outfalls, one at Pen Nanven and one at Trewellard Zawn. The former serves approximately one half of St. Just Churchtown while the latter serves, Trewellard, Pendeen and Boscawell Village.

There is a small septic tank at Higher Bojewyan.

The Boscean outfall taking sewage from the eastern half of the Churchtown and consisting of a series of disused mine shafts is over-burdened and a statutory nuisance. Here crude sewage flows into the Nancherrow stream.

Periodic heavy rainfall still surcharged the Churchtown sewers, causing damage through flooding to the personal effects of certain dwellinghouse occupiers.

The Council approved the following Scheme submitted to them by their Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Lemon & Blizard, to abate the long standing nuisances and provide Tregeseal with a long awaited sewerage system:-

- (a) A new 6" gravity sewer to take sewage from the eastern half of the Churchtown, connecting with the existing 9" gravity sewer emptying at Pen Nanven sea outfall,
- (b) Relief sewers in the western half of the Churchtown, and
- (c) A sewer for Tregeseal Valley, sewage from which is to be lifted into the new 6" gravity sewer.

It is now hoped that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will approve the Council's proposals which have been "on the stocks" for six years and time out of mind a necessity.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

		<u>Inspections</u>
<u>General</u>	Water Supply	75
<u>Sanitation</u>	Drainage	27
	Tents, Vans & Sheds	2
	Complaints.. .. .	41
	Sewage outfalls.. .. .	3
<u>Housing</u>	Verminous Conditions.. .. .	1
	Inspected for housing defects ..	20
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	Cinemas etc.	2
<u>Inspections</u>	Public Convenience	30
	Refuse Tips.	12
	Re Rat Destruction	10
	Visits to Council Houses	30
	District Inspection	12

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

<u>Dwelling</u>	Roof repaired	1
<u>Houses</u>	Chimneys repaired	1
	Walls repaired	3
	Windows repaired.	3
	Floors repaired.. .. .	1
	Houses provided with sinks. ..	1
	Defective ceilings repaired ..	1
	Houses provided with Bathrooms..	3
	Defective W.C.s repaired	1
	Houses provided with W.C.s. ..	5
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	2
	Houses provided with drainage ..	5
	Choked drains cleansed	2
	Cesspits cleansed.	3
	Houses cleansed.. .. .	1
<u>Sewers</u>	Sewers cleansed or repaired ..	33
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	Statutory Notices issued	Nil
	Preliminary Notices served. ..	21

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	7	4	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	13	6	-	-
(111) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	Nil	Nil	-	-
TOTAL	20	10	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instruct- ed.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp- erature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL

The arrangements for Rodent destruction were slightly altered. The Council's Operator is part-time only, but survey of agricultural premises in accordance with the Act, was undertaken in addition to maintenance treatments of the District's sewers and refuse disposal tip.

HOUSING

As no new Council houses were built during the year, housing work was restricted to dealing with maintenance of property in as reasonable a condition as possible.

More than 5 acres of land at Lower Boscaswell, Pendeen, and 3 acres of land at Carn Bosavern, St. Just, were acquired.

Instructions were given to a Contractor in November to commence the erection of 36 houses and 8 flats at the Lower Boscaswell site.

The Council's Architects surveyed the Carn Bosavern site with a view to preparing a site layout for dwellings.

The number of houses now owned by the Council is 39.

The Council's obligations and powers under the Housing Acts 1936 - 1954 were fully considered, especially the matter of proposals for a five year Slum Clearance Programme. Regarding additional staff that may be necessary to effectively carry out the five year Clearance Programme, the Council decided to await the result of the initial housing survey before arriving at a decision.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

225 visits were made to Meat and other Food Shops including Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses. In connection with the inspection of food the following meat and other food stuffs were condemned:-

	T.	C.	lbs.
Beef	1.	16.	39.
Canned Meat. .. .	-	-	11.
Canned Vegetables .. .	-	-	10.
Canned Fruit .. .	-	-	2.
Miscellaneous canned foods. .. .	-	-	6.
Cheese. .. .	-	-	23.
TOTAL.....	1.	16.	91.

Unsound foods, other than beef, are disposed of by burying at the Council's Tip.

Adulteration, Sampling etc.

The County Council is responsible for carrying out duties with regard to sampling for adulteration of food stuffs and I am indebted to Mr. H. A. Rundle, Divisional Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, for the following report:-

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Details of samples of food stuffs procured in 1954 in

St. Just Urban District.

<u>Article Sampled.</u>	<u>Number of Samples taken.</u>	<u>Result of analysis.</u>
Milk	20	Genuine.
Butter	1	Genuine.
Lemon Curd	1	Genuine.
Guava Jelly	1	Genuine.
Cornish Honey	1	Genuine.
Lard	1	Genuine.
Bakexa	1	Genuine.

The twenty-six samples thus procured in the area were found to be genuine and all the milk samples proved to be above the average for the County in both their fat and solids-not-fat content.

THREE SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.
Year ending:- 1954. (6 months)

SUMMARY.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	T.	Weight C.	lbs.
Number killed	186	61	16	31	248	-	-	-
Number inspected	186	61	16	31	248	-	-	-
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.</u>								
Whole carcases condemned.	1	1	1	1	2	-	11	41
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	37	12	-	-	6	-	5	23
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis.	20.4%	21.3%	6.3%	3.2%	3.2%	-	-	-
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>								
Whole carcases condemned.	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	104
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	28	23	-	-	6	-	13	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	15.6%	37.7%	-	-	2.4%	-	-	-
Total Weight.....						1	15	104

LICENSED HOUSES

The sanitary accommodation of these premises was kept under supervision and no complaints regarding their cleanliness were received.

CINEMA AND MUSIC HALLS

These places for Public Entertainment were inspected. Reports were made to the Licensing Authority when necessary.

CAMPING SITES

There are two licensed camping sites in the area.

Neither gave any cause for complaint during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

There is only one Public Convenience in the District. This was cleaned daily and gave little cause for complaint.

The revenue received for the year ending 31st March 1955 was £20: 11. 7.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(1st April 1953 - 31st March 1954)

During the year under review a weekly collection of house refuse was carried out over the whole District. A weekly collection of Nightsoil was carried out where necessary throughout the District.

Refuse was disposed on one tip at Balleswidden, St. Just.

But few complaints were received concerning refuse collection and none concerning tipping.

The collection team consisted of 3 males using one 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Lorry.

The total cost of collection was:-

Net cost of Collection (Refuse & Nightsoil) ..	£1,232.	7.	11.
Net cost of Tipping Refuse.	£	5.	12. 6.
TOTAL COST.....	£1,238.	0.	5.

(The above figures do not include £863. 0. 0d. for new Refuse Vehicle).

603 loads of refuse were disposed of at the Tip making a total weight of 1,070 Tons collected.

Street Sweeping.

Streets in the St. Just Churchtown only were cleansed by a part-time Sweeper. The net cost of Street Sweeping was £120. 12. 1d.

I again appeal to the public to make greater use of the street litter bins provided at various points throughout the district. Clean and tidy streets can only be kept as such at all times by the public rather than by the Local Authority Street Swceper.

MORTUARY FACILITIES

There is one Mortuary provided in St. Just Churchtown. These premises were used also on occasions by the neighbouring rural Authority.

EMPTYING OF CESSPOOLS

When the need arose, privately owned cesspools etc. and those for which the Council were responsible, were emptied by a Cesspool Emptyier hired from the neighbouring Authority.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the support received from the Council during the year also to record my thanks to the staff for their loyalty, zeal and devotion to their work, often outside the recognised hours of duty.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. STUART KNEEBONE

Sanitary Inspector

APPENDIX A

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Corrected Notifications).

.1954.

DISEASE	PENZANCE	ST. IVES	WEST PENWITH	ST. JUST
Scarlet Fever	11	5	15	-
Whooping Cough	31	9	58	28
Measles	7	164	14	2
Pneumonia	-	-	5	-
Tuberculosis				
- Respiratory	14	11	11	5
- Other	2	2	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	-
Rheumatic Fever	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	15	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

1954.

AREA	Number of children who completed a full course of Immunisation in 1954.			Number of children receiving Refresher Doses
	Under 5	5 - 14	Total	
Penzance	205	22	227	552
St. Ives	106	8	114	81
West Penwith Rural District	228	32	260	128
St. Just Urban District	75	4	79	39

APPENDIX B

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS 1954.

[illegible]

